

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A bristle cluster stuffing tool ram configured to press a strip-shaped holding element into a borehole that is arranged in a brush head and that serves for accommodating a bristle cluster, the ram having an end face comprising:

a pressing surface configured to press in the holding element, pressing surface having a cross-sectional area bounded by broad longitudinal sides and face sides of the ram;

wherein the pressing surface includes:

end face regions that penetrate into the material of the brush head when the holding element is pressed in; and

a central face region that penetrates into the borehole, the central face region being wider than the end face regions as measured between the broad longitudinal sides of the ram, a first broad longitudinal side of the ram disposed along a first line extending between ends of the face sides of the ram and a second broad longitudinal side of the ram extends outward relative a second line extending between ends of the face sides of the ram such that the central face region includes an enlarged projecting area is disposed on one of the broad longitudinal sides of the ram.

2. (Currently amended) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 1, wherein the central face region is disposed between the end face regions and is provided in part by an enlarged projecting area on one of the broad longitudinal sides of the ram.

3. (Previously presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 2, wherein both broad longitudinal sides of the ram have an enlarged projecting area that define portions of the central face region of the pressing surface.

4. (Previously presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 2, wherein a transition to the enlarged projecting area comprises a step in form of a narrower face side, and in that a width of the end face region essentially corresponds to a width of the holding element.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 2, wherein enlarged projecting area comprises a projection of rectangular shape.

7. (Currently amended) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 2 ~~5~~, wherein the total enlarged projecting area comprises a projection of trapezoidal shape.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 1, having a constant cross section along its length.

10. (Previously presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 1, wherein the ram is widened in a wedge shape beginning at the pressing surface.

11. (Currently amended) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 10, wherein the wedge shape has a point appoint defining an included angle of 75°.

12. (Previously presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 2, wherein the enlarged projecting area projects relative to a width of the respective holding element to be pressed in between 10 % and 40 %.

13. (Currently amended) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 1, comprising a [[a]] toothbrush bristle cluster stuffing tool.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 1, wherein one of the broad longitudinal sides of the ram is sized to be narrower than a diameter of a borehole into which the ram is configured to stuff bristles.

16. (Previously presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 12, wherein the enlarged projecting area projects relative to the width of the respective holding element to be pressed in by about 25%.

17. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a brush, the method comprising

providing a brush head defining bristle cluster boreholes;

providing a stuffing tool ram with opposed broad longitudinal sides and a pressing surface that includes a central region and two end regions, the central region having a width as measured between the broad longitudinal sides greater than a width of the end regions, a first broad longitudinal side of the ram disposed along a first line extending between ends of face sides of the ram and a second broad longitudinal side of the ram extending outward relative a second line extending between ends of the face sides of the ram such that the central regions includes an enlarged projecting area is disposed on one of the broad longitudinal sides of the ram; and

with the ram, pressing strip-shaped holding elements into engagement with corresponding bristle clusters and into corresponding boreholes with the end regions of the ram pressing surface penetrating into the material of the brush head as the central region extends into the borehole, thereby anchoring the bristle cluster in the borehole.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17 comprising a method of manufacturing a toothbrush, wherein the brush head is a toothbrush's head.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17 wherein pressing the holding element comprises pressing the holding elements into corresponding boreholes inclined relative to a longitudinal axis of the ram.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the width of the central region is between 10 percent and 80 percent greater than the width of the end regions.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the width of the central region is between 25 percent and 50 percent greater than the width of the end regions.

22. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a toothbrush, the method comprising

providing a brush head defining bristle cluster boreholes;  
providing a stuffing tool ram with opposed broad longitudinal sides and a pressing surface that includes a central region and two end regions, the central region having a width as measured between the broad longitudinal sides greater than a width of the end regions, a first broad longitudinal side of the ram disposed along a first line extending between ends of face sides of the ram and a second broad longitudinal side of the ram extending outward relative a second line extending between ends of the face sides of the ram such that the central regions

includes an enlarged projecting area is disposed on one of the broad longitudinal sides of the ram; and

with the ram, pressing strip-shaped holding elements into engagement with corresponding bristle clusters and into corresponding boreholes with the end regions of the ram pressing surface penetrating into the material of the brush head as the central region extends into the borehole, thereby anchoring the bristle cluster in the borehole, wherein the boreholes are inclined relative to a longitudinal axis of the ram.